

FORM B – BUILDING

Assessor's Number USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number

10-334

Orleans

O

EAS.440

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Town/City: EASTHAM

Place: (*neighborhood or village*):
Kingsbury Beach Road Area

Photograph



Address: 29 Longstreet Lane

Historic Name: Laura A. Williams House

Uses: Present: Single Family Dwelling House

Original: Single Family Dwelling House

Date of Construction: [1929-1938]

Source: 1929 *Directory*, 1938 USGS aerial survey

Style/Form: No Style

Architect/Builder: Unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Unknown

Wall/Trim: Wood shingles/ Wood

Roof: Asphalt shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:
None

Major Alterations (*with dates*):
None on record

Condition: Good

Moved: no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

Acreage: 0.28 acres

Setting: This parcel is located at the west end of Kingsbury Beach Road within an early-20th century subdivision of small cottage lots. This house is located on a dune above the beach. A broad clamshell driveway extends off Longstreet Lane.

Locus Map



Recorded by: Eric Dray, Preservation Consultant, for

Organization: Eastham Historical Commission

Date (*month / year*): April 2025

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

EASTHAM

29 LONGSTREET LANE

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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☐ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.

Use as much space as necessary to complete the following entries, allowing text to flow onto additional continuation sheets.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.

The Laura A. Williams House, built in ca. 1925-1938, is two stories in height with a variation of a lean-to roof forming. Also unusual is the deeply set open porch on the east elevation with a full second story above. The elevations are clad in wood shingles with plain cornerboards. The roof is clad in asphalt shingles, and an exterior brick chimney rises up the south elevation. The open porch enclosure is supported by broad square posts. Fenestration appears to be a mix of modern, thermal 6/6 double-hung sash and casement windows.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building, and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.

Incorporated as Nauset Plantation in 1646, and changed to Eastham in 1651, Eastham territory originally extended south to Pleasant Bay in Orleans and north beyond Wellfleet Harbor. The early development pattern for what we now know as Eastham was impacted by its absence of deep-water harbor facilities. Relatively fertile soil led to dispersed agricultural settlement, but residential and commercial development was concentrated to the north at Wellfleet Harbor and to the south at Town Cove and Pleasant Bay. When the separate towns of Wellfleet and Orleans were created in the late-18th century, Eastham became and remained one of the least populated towns on the Cape throughout the 19th century.

In the 19th century, Eastham was the agricultural center of the Outer Cape. Crops evolved over time; corn and dairy were surpassed in the early-20th century by asparagus and turnips - two crops well suited for the sandy soil. In 1900, 58% of Eastham's workers were employed as farmers, but by 1930 that number had dwindled to 21%. Summer resort development, including cottage colonies and subdivisions of former farmland that would transform Eastham, had begun in earnest in the 1920s as middle-class access to car ownership increased and Cape roads were improved.

The land along Kingsbury Beach Road was owned in large part by five families - moving roughly from east to west, those of Benjamin Higgins and Edward C. Clark, Richard F. Smith, Philip Smith, and Nathaniel Smith.¹ Kingsbury Beach Road achieved its present extent and route by the 1920s when beach house development along Cape Cod Bay in Eastham gathered momentum. Prior to this point the land had been farmed. As is the case along other beach roads in the town (e.g. Campground Road), a few 19th century farmhouses remain in the dense mix of 20th-century resort development as landmarks to an earlier time when the town was still quite rural.

In 1923, Francis W. Smith, the son of Nathaniel Smith (1810-88), sold to Leroy K. Houghton of West Roxbury 39 acres of land on Cape Cod Bay. The next year, Houghton created the first subdivision along Kingsbury Beach Road from the 39-acre tract (Figure 2).² The subdivision of 111 lots ran east to what is now Penny Lane, south to the south border of lots on Leland Road, and west to the bay shore. The northern bound of the plan was unclear. Kingsbury Beach Road was called Bay Queen Road on the 1924 subdivision plan before it was changed to Kingsbury Beach Road shortly thereafter. Boston-born Leroy Kingsbury Houghton (1888-1980) married Ethelvn Williams in 1915. The *Boston Globe* announcement stated that he was "sub-master at the Robert G. Shaw School in West Roxbury, and later census records also listed him as teacher and schoolmaster.

In 1925, Leroy and Ethelyn Houghton sold Lots 15 and 35 on the 1924 subdivision to Laura A. Williams of Marlboro.³ Laura Williams was born in 1904, so she was very young when she bought these cottage lots. She was the daughter of Allen G. and

¹ This summary of Kingsbury Beach's development is derived in large part from the 2005 MHC Area Form for Kingsbury Beach, EAS.O.

² Barnstable County Registry of Deeds, Plan Book 15/ Page 121.

³ Book 423/ Pages 67, 68.

Lottie A. Williams. Perhaps her parents helped her purchase this lot. As of the 1920 census, Allen Williams was working as a manager in the shoe machine industry. Laura Williams married England-born Wilfred Hammond (1900-1955) in Wayland in 1939. It appears to have been Laura who built this cottage before she married Wilfred. It was likely built after 1929 - there are no Williams families listed in the 1929 *Barnstable City Directory* in Eastham. The house is shown in this location on a 1938 United States Geological Survey (USGS) aerial photo (Photo 3). This image shows the limited degree to which the subdivision had been developed by that time.

Laura Williams' husband Wilfred Hammond was listed as an "assigner" for a telephone company in the 1940 census. They owned this cottage until 1954, when they sold it to Grace C. Peltier of Bedford, MA.⁴ In 1983, she sold this cottage to Gail and Leon Gardiner of Hebron, CT.⁵ In 2021, they sold it to the current owner, Avigdor Konig of Westport, CT.⁶

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

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www.ancestry.com - Vital records.

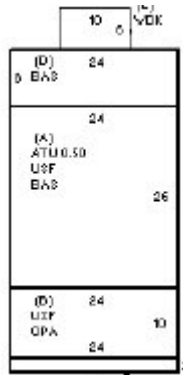


Figure 1. Assessor Sketch.



Photo 2. View from Longstreet Lane, looking southwest.

⁴ Book 868/ Page 158.
⁵ Book 3898/ Page 300.
⁶ Book 33666/ Page 324.

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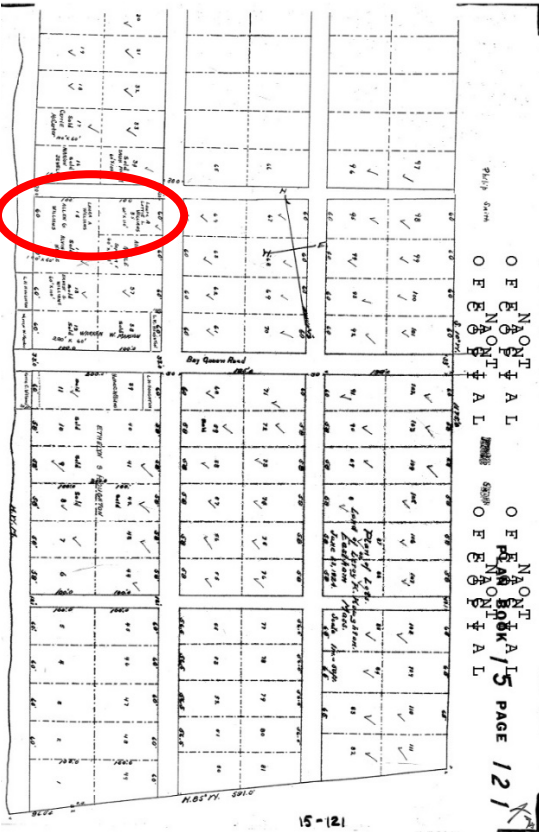


Figure 2. Plan of Land of Leroy K. Houghton, Eastham, Mass., June 23, 1924 (circle of Lots 15 and 35 added).



Photo 3. Detail of 1938 USGS aerial photo (arrow to 29 Longstreet Lane added).